

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 1, 2004 indicates that claims 1-27 are subject to a restriction requirement, stating that claims 1-19 and claims 20-27 constitute distinct inventions. By the above amendment, claims 20-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, whereby claims 1-19 remain pending in the application.

The Office Action further asserts on page 3 that the application contains claims directed to six patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, and further asserts that no claims are currently generic. The Office Action sets forth the following proposed groupings and asserts that each proposed group is a distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species 1: Embodiment of Fig. 2A;
- Species 2: Embodiment of Fig. 2E;
- Species 3: Embodiment 3 of Fig. 3A;
- Species 4: Embodiment 4 of Fig. 3B;
- Species 5: Embodiment 5 of Fig. 4A; and
- Species 6: Embodiment 6 of Fig. 4B.

In order to comply with the restriction requirements of the Office Action, ***Applicants hereby elect claims 1-3, 6, 10-13, and 16 associated with a species for examination with traverse.*** In particular, ***Applicants traverse the assertion that no claims are generic*** to the six examples identified as 'embodiments' in the Office Action. The elected claims include two independent claims 1 and 10, both of which read on the examples of Figs. 2A, 2E, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B. In addition, dependent claims 2, 6, 11, 12, and 16 are generic to all the examples illustrated in Figs. 2A, 2E, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B. Further, elected claims 3 and 13 are directed to implementations such as illustrated in Figs. 2A and 2E (e.g., "Species" 1 and 2 in the proposed groupings set forth in the Office Action), and examination thereof is respectfully requested. Also with respect to the groupings proposed in the Office Action, Applicants note that Figs. 2E and 2A are illustrations of one implementation with and without feature rounding,

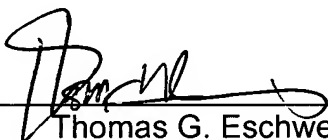
respectively. Further in this regard, Figs. 3B and 3A show another implementation with and without feature rounding, respectively, and Figs 4B and 4A illustrate yet another implementation with and without feature rounding, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 6, 10-12, and 16 are generic to all the implementations illustrated in Figs. 2A, 2E, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B, whereby the further restriction on page 3 of the Office Action is traversed. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that upon the allowance of the respective generic base claims, claims 4, 5, 7-9, 14, 15, and 17-19 should also be allowed.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 20-0688, TI-35853.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: September 21, 2004


Christine Gillroy